

## JOHN BARNES – PART 2

BY LAMONT "MONTY" HEALY  
SPECIAL TO THE CLIPPER

John Barnes received a Land Grant of at least 40 acres, but possibly much more, in the 1627 Plymouth Second Division, in which every man, woman and child, except servants, received 20 acres apiece. At the time of the Division John was not married. He later married Mary Plummer in 1633. Although the Division was dated 1627, it took several years for the grants to actually be laid out. This may be the reason he was initially granted the 40 acres for him and his soon-to-be wife. John may have received other grants for his five children who were born in the 1640s. At any rate, he had accumulated a large amount of land around his original grant, of which we found no record. Town documents from this time period were likely lost or destroyed when Alexander Standish's house burned. John Barnes was an active buyer and seller of property, and was selling off some of his property as early as 1633. When he died, he left his property to his wife, for her lifetime, and to his son Jonathan. The property later passed to John Rogers, son of the pilgrim Thomas, and then to the Bradford family. When Isaiah Bradford owned the property that is now 81 Elm Hill Lane, there was (and substantially still is) a road referred to as the "Sunken Road," which Bradford and probably his two uncles, Peter and Seth Bradford, used to get to his shipyard on the "Island" (the Sullivan-Bucci property) at Island Creek (see sketch). This road is probably about 250 years old and the two ends are easily discernable. It got its name from the portion that goes across the marsh, it being underwater at high tide. The property has been referred to in the past as "The Sunken Road Farm."

Lt. Samuel Bradford, Gov. William Bradford's grandson, married Hannah Rogers, who with her three sisters, Elizabeth Richmond, Ruth Bennett and Sarah Searles, inherited a large part of the property from their brother, the third John Rogers. The sisters were mistakenly identified as the daughters of the third John Rogers in the first part of this story. That John, died unmarried within a year of acquiring the property from his father.

Isaiah Bradford's property was sold in a sheriff's sale (circa 1817). There were several attempts made to re-acquire the property by members of the Bradford family for the benefit of Isaiah. Eventually Samuel Bradford, a nephew of Isaiah, left the property to Lydia (Bradford) Bates. In 1869 Harrison Loring acquired the property from Lydia.

It was only a short time later that the property was purchased by Bernard J. Rothwell and his second wife, Henrietta Goodrich Rothwell. The Rothwell family owned the property from 1904 to 1961. Thanks to a recent article by Carolyn Ravenscroft (Two Women on a Hill in the blog, Here Lies Buried), I discovered that the Rothwell family was quite well known in Boston and beyond.

Bernard J. Rothwell was an industrialist who owned mills in both Massachusetts and Indiana. He was also the head of the Boston Chamber of Commerce for a time in the early 20th century. His wife, Henrietta Goodrich, was a well-educated woman from Michigan. She came to Boston after receiving her master's degree in home economics from the University of Michigan. She was a director of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union in Boston and later worked for Simmons College. Bernard J. Rothwell's son Paul was an equally successful businessman inheriting the helm of Bay State Milling. Paul and his wife owned the property until it was sold to Sabra H. Sanders in 1961.

Bernard J. Rothwell is buried in Forest Hills Cemetery in Jamaica Plain. Henrietta died in 1943 and "relocated" from the house on Island Creek with a majestic view of Kingston Bay to a beautiful spot on top of a hill in the Evergreen Cemetery in Kingston next to her mother.



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